

Bell companies operate an "essential facility", and should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. This wholesale provisioning will stimulate competition and be of benefit to the consumers. To not do so would cripple the '96 Telecom Act. It's not as if the big companies are *giving away* the access, they are *selling* it. I want to continue to deal with my small, local ISP -- they provide excellent and *personal* service. Please, do not drive them out of business by knuckling under to the "big boys".